

#### **Activities**

**See** Entertainment, Equipment Rentals, Fishing, Golf, Hiking/Backpacking, Horses/Horseback Riding, Hunting, Mountain Biking, Museums, Outfitters & Guides, Rafting, Sports/Sporting Goods, and Winter Sports sections.

#### **Airports**

Mineral County Airport (719-658-9962)

#### **Animal Care**

Creede Animal Clinic  
Anne Butler Personalized Pet Services

#### **Antiques**

★ Rare Things  
★ The Rose of Creede  
★ Wild Thistle Décor and Design

#### **Appliances**

★ Monte Vista Co-op

#### **Automotive**

##### **Gasoline/Fuel:**

Freemon's General Store  
★ Lake City Auto & Sports  
★ Monte Vista Co-op  
★ Tomkins Gifts & Gas  
★ Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge

##### **Rentals/Sales/Services:**

★ CDSI Auto & Tire  
★ Continental Divide Services, Inc.  
★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge  
Creede Carwash  
★ John Roberts Motor Works Company  
★ Lake City Auto & Sports  
Miners Creek Towing  
★ Monte Vista Co-op

#### **Banks**

★ Community Banks of the Rockies  
★ First National Bank of Creede

#### **Beauty Products/Services**

★ Amethyst Emporium  
★ Indigo Bodyworks  
Jane's Beauty Quest  
★ Thressia's Beauty Salon (see Blue Creek Lodge)

#### **Books**

★ Amethyst Emporium  
★ Kentucky Belle Market  
★ Ramble House  
★ San Juan Sports  
★ Tomkins Gifts & Gas

#### **Business Services**

★ Blair Street Productions  
cyber.stop  
★ Debbie Whitmore Computer & Consulting Service

★ Wagnon Webscapes

**Campgrounds**

See See RV Parks & Rio Grande National Forest

**Child Care**

- ★ Creede Child Care Center
- Creede Pre-School

**Churches**

- Church of Christ
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Creede Baptist Church
- ★ Creede Community Church
- Creede Lutheran Church
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Mission
- St. Augustine Episcopal Church

See Churches and Houses of Worship for detailed information.

**Clothing**

- ★ Amethyst Emporium
- ★ The Bunkhouse
- ★ Creede Shirt Company
- ★ The Holy Moses
- ★ Monte Vista Co-op
- ★ Ramble House
- ★ San Juan Sports

**Clubs/Lodges**

- Creede Elks Lodge
- ★ Creede Historical Society
- Creede Masonic Lodge
- ★ Creede Woodcarvers Rendezvous Colorado
- ★ Rio Grande Club
- ★ Snow Country Explorers
- ★ Upper Rio Grande Nordic Club

**Communications**

- ★ Amigo.Net
- ★ Blair Street Productions
- ★ Blanca Telephone Company
- ★ CenturyTel
- cyber.stop

**Computer & Marketing Services**

- ★ Blair Street Productions
- ★ Debbie Whitmore Computer & Consulting Service
- ★ Gilmer Design
- Shawnodese Studio
- ★ Wagnon Webscapes

### **Contractors/Construction**

#### **Builders:**

- ★ Double D Log & Custom Homes  
High Country Cabinets and Cabins  
Jones Construction
- ★ New Horizons Construction
- ★ RW Contracting

#### **Building Services/Supplies:**

- Jim's Landscaping and Backhoe  
Kolisch Lumber
- ★ Monte Vista Co-op
- Rocky Mountain High Painting
- ★ Tomkins True Value Hardware

#### **Developers:**

- ★ Navajo Development, Inc.

#### **Electricians:**

- Creede Electric Company  
Longridge Electric, Inc.

### **Dining**

- ★ 4UR Ranch
- ★ Antlers Rio Grande Lodge & Riverside Restaurant
- The Bear's Den
- The Best Little Doghouse in Creede
- Blue Creek Lodge
- ★ The Bristol Inn Gallery
- ★ Café Olé
- ★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge
- ★ Creede Smokehouse BBQ
- ★ Creede Hotel & Restaurant
- Freemon's General Store
- ★ Journeys
- ★ Kip's Grill
- ★ Mac's Old Mine
- ★ The Old Firehouse Bakery & Ice Cream Parlor
- pan y vino
- ★ Tommyknocker Tavern
- ★ Willow Creek Chuckwagon (see Tom Payne Outfitting)
- Wolf Creek Ski Area

### **Emergency Services**

- Creede Fire Dept/Ambulance (719-658-2211)
- Creede Health Center (719-658-2416)
- Mineral County Sheriff (719-658-2600)

### **Entertainment/TV**

- ★ Creede Arts Council
- Creede Arts & Recreation Department
- ★ The Creede Repertory Theatre
- ★ Monte Vista Co-op

### **Equipment Rentals**

- ★ Continental Divide Services, Inc.
- ★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge
- ★ Dan's Fly Shop
- ★ Lake City Auto & Sports
- ★ Mountain Man Tours
- ★ Ramble House
- ★ Rio Grande Angler
- ★ San Juan Sports

### **Fishing**

- ★ 4UR Ranch
- ★ Antlers Rio Grande Lodge & Riverside Restaurant
- ★ Broadacres Ranch
- ★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge
- ★ Dan's Fly Shop
- Freemon's Guest Ranch
- ★ Little Squaw Resort
- ★ Lost Trail Ranch
- Moon Valley Campground
- ★ Mountain Man Tours
- ★ RC Guest Ranch
- ★ San Juan Ranch
- ★ Soward Ranch
- ★ Wason Ranch
- ★ Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge

### **Flowers**

- ★ The Rose of Creede
- ★ Wild Thistle Décor and Design

### **Galleries**

- ★ Abbey Lane Gallery
- ★ Artspaces by Angela
- ★ The Bristol Inn Gallery
- Picture This
- ★ Lovering's
- Mines & Memories General Store
- Picture This
- ★ Quiller Gallery
- ★ Rare Things
- ★ The Rose of Creede
- Shawnodese Studio
- ★ Shepperd Woodworks

### **Gasoline/Fuel**

See Automotive

### **Gift & Specialty Shops**

- ★ 4UR Ranch

- ★ Abbey Lane Gallery
- ★ Amethyst Emporium
- ★ Antlers Rio Grande Lodge & Riverside Restaurant
- ★ Artspaces by Angela
- ★ Blue Creek Lodge
- ★ Bob Ford Mall
- ★ The Bristol Inn Gallery
- ★ The Bunkhouse
- ★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge
- ★ Creede Country Club
- ★ The Creede Repertory Theatre
- ★ Creede Shirt Company
- Creede Trading Post
- Elk Country
- Freemon's General Store
- ★ Goodnight's Lonesome Dove Campground & Cabins
- ★ The Holy Moses
- ★ Indigo Bodyworks
- ★ Journeys
- Knowlton's Knest
- ★ Lovering's
- Mines & Memories General Store
- ★ Ramble House
- ★ Rare Things
- ★ The Rose of Creede
- ★ San Juan Sports
- ★ Shepperd Woodworks
- ★ Tomkins Gifts & Gas
- ★ Tomkins True Value Hardware
- ★ Underground Mining Museum
- Wetherill Brothers Trading Post
- ★ Wild Thistle Décor and Design
- ★ Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge

See also Sports/Sporting Goods

#### **Golf**

- ★ Rio Grande Club

#### **Government**

- ★ Board of Mineral County Commissioners (719-658-2331)
- ★ City of Creede (719-658-2276)
- Creede Arts & Recreation (719-658-2276)
- Creede Fire Dept/Ambulance (719-658-2211)
- Creede Post Office (719-658-2615)
- Combined Court (719-658-2575)
- County Administrator (719-658-2331)
- County Assessor (719-658-2669)
- County Clerk (719-658-2440)
- County Shop (719-658-2329)
- County Treasurer (719-658-2325)

Health Center (719-658-2416)  
Land Use Office (719-658-2360)  
Ranger Station (719-658-2556)  
Regional Library (719-658-2313)  
Sheriff (719-658-2600)

#### **Graphics/Publications**

★ B&B Printers  
★ Creede Magazine  
★ Debbie Whitmore Computer & Consulting Service  
★ Gilmer Design  
★ Mineral County Miner  
★ O&V Printing  
Shawnodese Studio  
★ Wagnon Webscapes

#### **Groceries/Sundries**

Freemon's General Store  
★ Goodnight's Lonesome Dove Campground & Cabins  
★ Kentucky Belle Market  
★ Lake City Auto & Sports  
★ Tomkins Gifts & Gas  
★ Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge

#### **Hardware Stores**

★ Monte Vista Co-op  
★ Tomkins True Value Hardware

#### **Health & Human Services**

★ The Chiropractic Office  
Jennifer Harbert, M.D.  
★ Indigo Bodyworks  
Mineral County Health Center(719-658-2416)  
Rio Grande County Hospital (719-657-2510)  
Turning Aspen Massage

#### **Hiking/Backpacking**

★ Lost Trail Ranch  
★ San Juan Ranch

See also Outfitters & Guides and Sports/Sporting Goods

#### **Home Furnishings**

★ The Bunkhouse  
High Country Cabinets and Cabins  
★ Monte Vista Co-op  
★ Rare Things  
★ Shepperd Woodworks  
★ Tomkins True Value Hardware  
★ Wild Thistle Décor and Design

### **Home Services**

Commodore Cabin Care  
Creede Property Management  
Deep Creek Carpet Cleaners  
Rocky Mountain High Enterprises  
San Juan Window Cleaning

### **Horses/Horseback Riding**

★ 4UR Ranch  
★ Antlers Rio Grande Lodge  
★ Bristol Mountain Morgans  
    (see The Bristol Inn Gallery)  
★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge  
★ Equine Sports Massage Therapy (see Gilmer Design)  
Freemon's Guest Ranch  
★ Lost Trail Ranch  
Moon Valley Campground  
★ RC Guest Ranch  
★ Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge

### **Hunting**

Freemon's Guest Ranch  
Jake's Rio Grande Outfitting Service  
Moon Valley Campground  
★ RC Guest Ranch  
★ San Juan Ranch  
★ Tom Payne Outfitting  
★ Wason Ranch

See also Outfitters & Guides

### **Insurance**

★ Deacon's Insurance Agency

### **Laundromat**

Creede Laundromat (see Miner's Creek Enterprises)

### **Lodging**

★ 4UR Ranch  
★ Amethyst Inn  
★ Antlers Rio Grande Lodge & Riverside Restaurant  
★ Blessings Inn B & B  
★ Blue Creek Lodge  
★ Broadacres Ranch  
● Broken Arrow Ranch & Land Company  
★ Bruce Spruce Ranch  
★ Bruces' Snowshoe Lodge and B & B  
★ The Club at the Cliffs  
★ Continental Divide Services, Inc.  
★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge  
★ Creede Hotel & Restaurant

Creedmoor Inn B & B  
Freemon's Guest Ranch  
Gold Dust Ranch and B & B  
★ Goodnight's Lonesome Dove Campground & Cabins  
★ Little Squaw Resort  
★ Lost Trail Ranch  
★ Mountain Views at RiversEdge RV Resort  
★ The Old Firehouse B&B  
★ RC Guest Ranch  
★ San Juan Ranch  
★ San Juan Snow Treks Ski Huts  
★ Soward Ranch  
★ Thirty Mile Resort  
★ Wason Ranch  
★ Wolf Creek Ranch Ski Lodge

#### **Lumber**

Kolisch Lumber  
★ Tomkins True Value Hardware

#### **Mountain Biking**

★ Mountain Man Tours

#### **Museums**

Creede Historical Museum  
★ Underground Mining Museum

#### **Outfitters & Guides**

★ Broadacres Ranch  
★ Circle Divide Outfitters (see RC Guest Ranch)  
★ Continental Divide Services, Inc.  
★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge  
★ Creede Guide & Outfitters (see Ramble House)  
★ Dan's Fly Shop  
Jake's Rio Grande Outfitting Service  
★ Lake City Auto & Sports  
Moon Valley Wilderness Outfitters  
(see Moon Valley Campground)  
★ Mountain Man Tours  
★ Rio Grande Angler  
★ San Juan Snowcat  
● San Juan Sports  
★ Tom Payne Outfitting  
★ Trail Skills, Inc. (see Lost Trail Ranch)  
★ Wason Ranch

#### **Printers/Publications**

★ B&B Printers  
★ Creede Magazine  
★ Mineral County Miner  
★ O&V Printing



### **Rafting**

- ★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge
- ★ Mountain Man Tours

### **Realtors**

- ★ Broken Arrow Ranch & Land Company  
Creede Realty
- ★ Hall Realty
- ★ Rincon Real Estate
- ★ United Country Premier Brokers
- ★ Willow Creek Realty & Investments

### **Rentals**

4WD, snowmobiles, rafting, outdoor & recreational gear.  
See Equipment Rentals

### **Rocks & Minerals**

- ★ Lovering's
- ★ Rare Things
- ★ Underground Mining Museum

### **RV Parks & Campgrounds in Mineral County**

#### **RV Parks:**

- ★ Antlers Rio Grande Lodge & Riverside Restaurant
- ★ Blue Creek Lodge
- ★ Broken Arrow Ranch & Land Company
- ★ Bruce Spruce Ranch
- ★ Continental Divide Services, Inc.
- ★ Cottonwood Cove Lodge
- ★ Goodnight's Lonesome Dove Campground & Cabins  
Moon Valley Campground
- ★ Mountain Views at RiversEdge RV Resort

#### **Campgrounds (Public):**

The following campgrounds are operated by the Rio Grande and San Juan National Forests. Most are fee areas. For more information, contact the Creede Ranger Office at 719-658-2556. Some may require reservations; call 877-444-CAMP or visit [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com). Please consult a US Forest Service map for precise locations. Unless otherwise indicated, directions are from Creede. See also Rio Grande National Forest for public campgrounds.

**Bristol Head:** W on SR 149 between North Clear Creek and South Clear Creek campgrounds.

**Big Meadows:** W from South Fork on US 160, then 1½ miles W of US 160 on FR 410.

**Ivy Creek:** W 16 miles on SR 149 and Forest Service roads.

**Lost Trail:** W 38 miles, above Rio Grande Reservoir.

**Marshall Park:** W 7 miles, at Seven Mile Bridge.

**North Clear Creek:** W on SR 149, then 1½ miles off SR 149 on North Clear Creek Road.

**Palisade:** SE 13 miles on SR 149 on Rio Grande.

**Park Creek:** W from South Fork on US 160, ¼ mile west of Park Creek Road intersection.

**River Hill:** W, between Road Canyon and Rio Grande Reservoirs.

**Rito Hondo:** W 30 miles on SR 149 near North Clear Creek Falls.

**Road Canyon:** W on SR 149, then 6 miles on Rio Grande Reservoir Road.

**Silver Thread:** W on SR 149, about mid way to Lake City.

**Thirty Mile:** W on SR 149, then about 13 miles on Rio Grande Reservoir Road.

**Tucker Ponds:** W from South Fork on US 160, then 2½ miles on FR 149.

**West Fork:** E from Pagosa Springs on US 160, 1 mile W on FR 648.

**Wolf Creek:** E from Pagosa Springs on US 160, ¼ mile W on FR 648.

#### **Schools**

Creede Consolidated Schools (719-658-2220)

Creede Preschool (719-658-2022)

★ Trinidad State Jr College-San Luis Valley Campus

#### **Spirits/Taverns**

The Bear's Den

★ Beaver Liquors & Spirits

★ Mac's Old Mine

pan y vino

★ Tommyknocker Tavern

#### **Sports/Sporting Goods**

★ Dan's Fly Shop

★ Ramble House

★ Rio Grande Angler

★ Rio Grande Club

★ San Juan Sports

(Some grocery and specialty shops also carry basic fishing and sport supplies.)

#### **Storage**

★ Bear Paw Self-Storage

#### **Utilities**

All Star Gas

★ CenturyTel

★ Monte Vista Co-op

★ San Luis Valley Rural Electric Co-op

(719-852-3538/800-332-7634)

#### **Waste Management**

Mineral County Landfill (M, TH, SAT 10-4)

★ Muley's Disposal Service

#### **Water Resources Management**

San Luis Valley Irrigation District Rio Grande Reservoir

(719-658-2245)

Santa Maria Reservoir Engineers Cabin (719-658-2298)

#### **Winter Sports**

- ★ Continental Divide Services Snowmobiles
- ★ Lake City Auto & Sports
- ★ Lost Trail Ranch
- ★ San Juan Snowcat
- ★ San Juan Snow Treks Ski Huts
- ★ San Juan Snowcat
- ★ San Juan Sports
- ★ Snow Country Explorers
- ★ Upper Rio Grande Nordic Club
- Wolf Creek Ski Area

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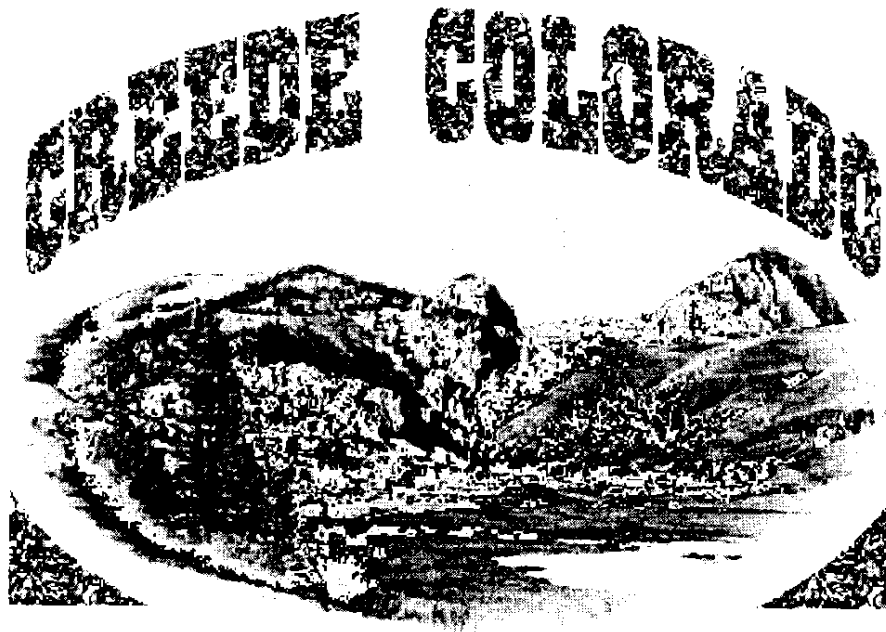
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Web Site Design by: Wagnon Webscapes, Creede, Colorado  
Page updated 05/04/2003

Welcome to...



## On The Silver Thread Scenic Byway

### A Photo Tour of Creede Colorado.

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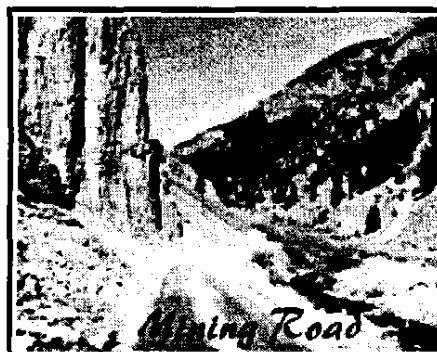
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Updated 03-15-99

# About Creede

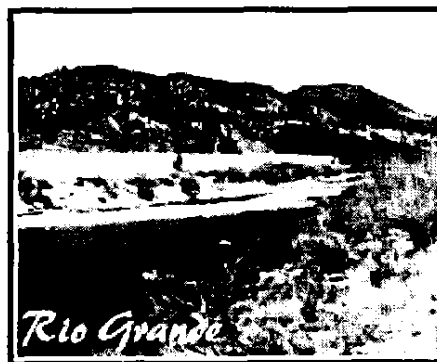
Creede: A chronicle of yesterday.

The Ute Indians and their famous leader, Chief Ouray, hunted in Mineral County long before white settlers knew of its existence. Never staying in one place permanently, the Utes roamed and hunted using the seasons as their guide.



The hot springs at Wagon Wheel Gap were a favorite spot for the Utes as was the Wheeler Geologic Area. Two factors worked in unison to force the Utes from Mineral County: the building of Fort Garland was to move Chief Ouray and his Ute Indians to their current reservations in the Cortez/Ignacio areas.

This completed, Mineral County was then open to homesteaders. And the homesteaders came! Tom Boggs, Kit Carson's brother-in-law, farmed at the Gap in 1840 followed by M.V.B. Wason who homesteaded Wason Ranch in 1871. Soward bought the Antelope Springs Stage Station and Halfway House in 1876 and James



Workman homesteaded and bought the Texas Club, now known as Freemon's Ranch.

Tourists came to Mineral County long before the Town of Creede existed. In 1876 a hotel was opened at Wagon Wheel Gap to house visitors. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad allowed travelers to discover this area as early as 1883. The stop became so fashionable that the current Wagon Wheel Gap Depot was built and opened on July 1st that same year to indulge an ever-growing number of guests. The tourists came in droves to bathe in and drink from the hot springs at the Gap. (The same hot springs the Utes so loved.) These bubbling hot waters were widely praised for their curative and restorative powers. In one final accommodating gesture, a lavish bathhouse was built, piping in water and protecting guests as they

luxuriated in the therapeutic springs. The bathhouse, now privately owned, still stands as a haunting and poignant reminder of when the first settlers arrived.

Nicholas Creede opened a treasure chest when he discovered an enormous silver vein in 1890 and changed Mineral County forever. The population soon swelled to a staggering 10,000. Fortunes were made. "Don't jostle that fellow. He may become a millionaire tomorrow!" was the Creede warning. Mines had colorful names such as the Amethyst, Holy Moses, Commodore and the Last Chance. The slab and tent town was strung down the canyon from North Creede for a couple of miles. It consisted of Creede, String Town and Jimtown.

In 1891, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad extended its line from Wagon Wheel Gap to Creede. During full production years before 1893, two trains arrived and departed Creede daily. By 1892, \$1,000,000 worth of silver had been shipped. The wealth of Creede's mines became known worldwide.

Along with the prospectors and miners came the gamblers, saloon keepers and prostitutes. Bob Ford set up business in Creede when he opened a dance hall/saloon. Soapy Smith came along and opened the Orleans Club and declared himself boss and mayor of Creede. Bat Masterson operated a saloon for a Denver firm. Poker Lulu Slain and the Mormon Queen plied their trade in 'The Houses'. An article in the Creede Candle said: "Creede is unfortunate in getting more of the flotsam of the state than usually falls to the lot of a mining camp. Some of her citizens wold take a prize at a hog show."

As people poured in, more new towns sprang up. Spar City, Stumptown, Weaver and Bachelor all became thriving communities. Today, Spar City is a private resort. There are no buildings left in Stumptown and Weaver, and only stark ruins of a few cabins may be seen in Bachelor.

Over the years, two floods and two fires eliminated most of Creede and Jimtown, and all of Stringtown. The disastrous fire in 1892, which burned the business district, and the silver panic of 1893 combined to spell the end of the silver boom in Creede. The only buildings left standing were in Jimtown. folks moved to Jimtown and eventually renamed it Creede.

With the mountains still rich with ore, mines regrouped and opened again on a smaller scale and operated with great success for several years. Creede's mines were in continuous operation from 1890 until 1985 when the price of silver dropped and finally forced the closure of the Homestake Mining Company's operation. Mineral and silver deposits are still plentiful in Mineral County. Creede has been left with a rich mining legacy.

Mineral County now boasts a year-round population of 560. Ninety-six percent of Mineral County is public access land. Creede thrives today by

preserving and sharing its mining heritage and beautiful natural resources with the thousands of visitors who vacation here annually.

Creede's heritage is preserved through two museums: The Creede (Historical Society) Museum and the Creede Underground Mining Museum.

**More Photos of Creede**

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**Our Thanks to the  
Creede/Mineral County Chamber of Commerce**  
(800) 327-2102 or (719) 658-2374  
[creede@amigo.net](mailto:creede@amigo.net)

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## ITINERARY

### Travels Around Creede



Creede is a quaint mountain mining town that evolved into an active haven for the arts and artists. Founded in 1892 and named for Nicholas Creede, who discovered the Holy Moses silver deposit, Creede retained its mining image until 1985 when the last mine closed. Predictions that Creede was a dying town failed to materialize. The town began to redefine itself. Nationally famous artists like Stephen Quiller (Quiller Gallery) and Jenny Inge (Rare Things Gallery) established studios on Creede's historic Main Street. Buildings dating from the 1890s were transformed into galleries and specialty gift shops. The Abbey Lane Gallery, Rose of Creede, Lovering's and Shawnode Studio are among the fifteen galleries and studios featured in the Creede Gallery Walk.

The Creede Repertory Theatre, created in the mid 1960s by drama students from the University of Kansas, has developed a national reputation for its quality productions. It is possible to see seven different plays in four days during the height of the summer season with matinee and evening performances. Creede's Mayor, B.J. Myers, who arrived as a KSU student, owns the well-known Amethyst Emporium gift shop. A few doors away is The Holy Moses, another shop that attracts customers year round with creative and unique gifts. The Bunkhouse, Creede Country Club, and Creede Shirt Company all carry gifts and clothing of special interest to Creede visitors.

Relaxation and outdoor recreation have been Mineral County traditions since the turn of the century. Blue Creek Lodge, Cottonwood Cove, and 4 UR Ranch, located at the historically famous Wagon Wheel Gap about 10 miles down river from Creede, have hosted travelers since the days when the first steam engines brought tourists to enjoy hot springs baths and the excellent fishing afforded by the Rio Grande, which still boasts Gold Medal waters. Personnel at Ramble House and the Rio Grande Angler give advice on the right equipment and the best places to fish to enthusiasts from the very young to pros.

Several ranch resorts that housed pioneer travelers on the Barlow and Sanderson stage road to Lake City (now the Silver Thread Scenic Byway) continue to host families that return generation after generation. Antlers Rio Grande Lodge, Broadacres Ranch, the Broken Arrow, Freeman's Ranch, Little Squaw, Lost Trail, RC Guest Ranch, San Juan Ranch, the Soward Ranch, Thirty Mile Resort and Wason Ranch offer cabin variations from rustic log ambiance to fully modern sophistication. John Wayne visited the Snowshoe Lodge in Creede, and the Creede Hotel, now a B & B, has been in operation since the 1890s. Other popular B & Bs are the Old Firehouse #1, located upstairs in Creede's original fire station, the Blessings Inn, Creedmoor Inn, and the Gold Dust Ranch. The RV crowd can camp at several of the ranch resorts, Mountain Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort, or forest service campgrounds.

Since Mineral County is 96% public land, forest service roads and trails provide ample opportunity for horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking and four-wheeling. The Wheeler National Geologic Area with its display of strangely convoluted formations is a favorite destination. The Bachelor Historic Loop tour, accessible by touring car, takes viewers through West Willow Creek's mining district with century old structures that cling perilously to the mountainside to Equity Mine just below the Continental Divide. The downhill leg of the tour provides broad vistas of the ancient La Garita caldera, which holds Creede and the Upper Rio Grande Valley. Rafting enthusiasts can put into the river at Creede or Wagon Wheel Gap. Labor Day weekend, endurance runners from all over the United States and several foreign



countries converge on Creede for the Creede Mountain Runs. The 22 mile course takes runners to timberline and back.

Before driving the Bachelor Historic Loop, visitors should stop at the Underground Mining Museum, blasted into the mountain by three miners after the Homestake mine closed. The museum is open year round and provides insight into silver mining equipment as well as what comprised a miner's daily activities. The Creede Historic Museum, housed in the original Rio Grande Western railroad depot has a large collection of memorabilia including photographs and genealogical information. The Creede Historical Society sells a Walking Tour booklet that describes buildings that survived Creede's early day disasters of floods and fire. Modern day Creede is served by a modern fire department with equipment housed in an underground firehouse. The large underground Community Center is available for civic functions as well as private parties such as wedding receptions.

One can honestly say that Creede's restaurants are a cut above the average. Gourmet fare is available at the Creede Hotel and Antler's Riverside Restaurant. Blue Creek Lodge and Cottonwood Cove are known for their home-style meals and freshly baked pies. Café Olé is the mainstay of downtown Creede for breakfast and lunch while Journeys across the street offers hot and cold beverages, fresh bakery goods, and Walkabouts. Kip's Grill in the Tommyknocker Tavern, Creede's Best Little Doghouse, and Freeman's Cafe serve hamburgers and other grilled sandwiches. The Bear's Den has a full family-fare menu. Several restaurants offer freshly made pizzas.

Creede hosts a number of special events. The Taste of Creede was initiated by Stephen Quiller to promote the town's artists and galleries. This Memorial Day weekend event features local and guest artists who provide demonstrations and participate in a "quick draw" contest. The culinary arts are represented with local food businesses offering their specialty dishes. Salsa Fiesta, Labor Day weekend, and Chocolate Festival are annual events that invite businesses and individuals to provide to the general public samples which are then judged in a fun but fierce competition. Fourth of July week is the biggest draw in Creede with the famous Independence Day Parade, the Days of '92 Mining Competitions, and the Tomahawk and Knife Throwing Contests. Fireworks off the Pillars of Hercules, remnants of a volcanic dike, emblazon the night sky above Creede with brilliant and noisy displays. The Woodcarvers Rendezvous, Mineral County Gem and Mineral Show, and the Mushroom Foray fill the rest of the summer events schedule.

While Mineral County has much to offer any time of the year, summer and fall are the best seasons for driving the Silver Thread Scenic Byway (SH 149). Creede is the "Heart of the Silver Thread" with Lake City and South Fork marking connection points with US highways 50 and 160. The Upper Rio Grande Valley is a prime location for native wildlife viewing of Bighorn sheep, moose, elk, and deer. Mountain lions, bear, and even lynx may be observed as well. Bald and Golden eagles and Ospreys plus a variety of mountain hawks soar the skies looking for Golden marmots, Snowshoe hares, chipmunks and other small mammals. Water birds and shore birds frequent shallow lagoons, quiet pools and mountain reservoirs. Fall foliage along the Silver Thread is among the best in the state with aspen forests radiating hues of gold, orange, red, and even dark maroon.

The Silver Thread Scenic Byway Tour Guide gives interesting information about geologic and historic sites along the route. Favorite stopping places are the Headwaters of the Rio Grande Overlook, North Clear Creek Falls (the most-photographed waterfall in Colorado), Windy Point Overlook with its spectacular view of the 14,000 foot peaks that comprise "Colorado's Alps", the colorful Slumgullion mudslide, and the Lake San Cristobal overlook. Lake San Cristobal, created by the Slumgullion slide, is Colorado's second largest natural lake.

The Silver Thread Byway also attracts a winter crowd. Since the highway is paved and maintained year round, winter sports enthusiasts can travel to high mountain areas to enjoy snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice fishing. Many mapped and groomed trails connect with trails from Lake City and South Fork. A winter recreation map is provided by the Snow Country Explorers snowmobile club. San Juan Snow Treks offers huts, and snowmobiles can be rented at Continental Divide Services in Creede. San Juan Sports in Creede carries a wide-range of equipment for summer or winter activities.

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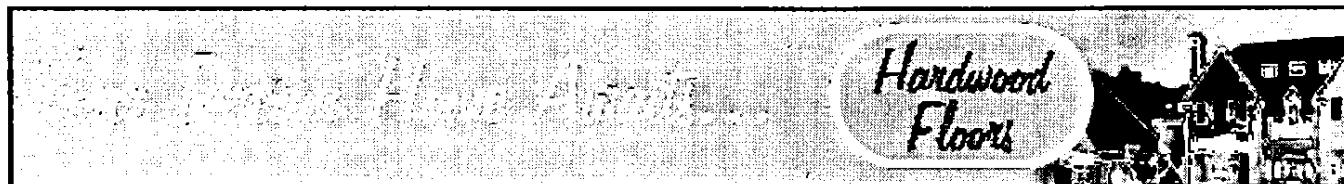
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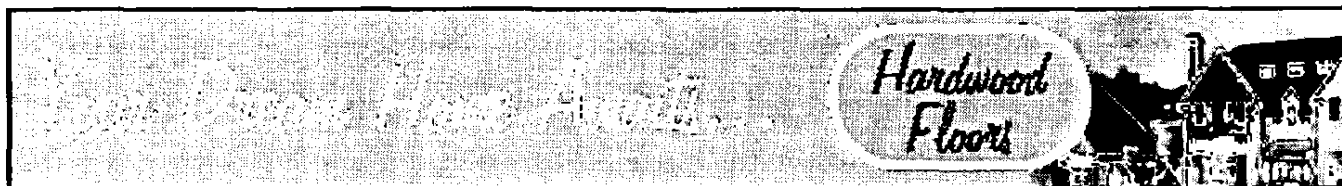
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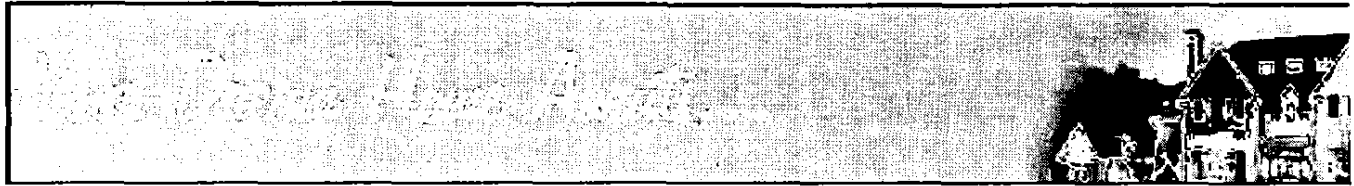
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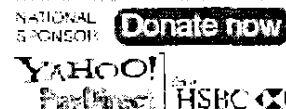
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